

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08633 022302Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
SAB-02 /029 W

-----038474 022304Z /64

O R 022225Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4764

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 8633

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA O R 022224Z DEC 77 SENT ACTION USINFO
WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--CHANNEL FOUR NEWS DIRECTOR, FERNANDO ELETA C.,
READ THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE NOON NEWS TODAY FROM THE
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE BEING HELD AT GENERAL TORRIJOS'
BEACH RESIDENCE IN FARALLON: (QUOTE) THE PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF
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GOVERNMENT, GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, SAID TODAY THAT THE U.S.
SHOULD EITHER RATIFY THE NEW TREATIES OR SEND THE MARINES TO
INVADE THIS COUNTRY. THE MACHINERY OF PATIENCE ONLY HAS GAS
FOR SIX MONTHS, THE PANAMANIAN LEADER SAID DURING A COUNCIL OF
STATE MEETING BEING HELD IN HIS HOUSE AT FARALLON BEACH 120
KILOMETERS FROM PANAMA CITY.

2-ACCORDING TO TORRIJOS, STATEMENTS FROM THE PENTAGON THAT PANAMA COULD BECOME ANOTHER VIETNAM HAVE PARALIZED THE ECONOMY OF THIS COUNTRY WHICH AFTER HAVING A GROWTH RATE OF 8 PERCENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DECADE HAS EXPERIENCED FOUR YEARS OF ZERO GROWTH. THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT SAID THAT MANY INVESTMENTS AND PROJECTS ARE WAITING FOR THE U.S. SENATORS TO RATIFY THE BILATERAL ACCORDS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER LAST SEPTEMBER AND APPROVED IN A PLEBISCITE OCTOBER 23 AND WHICH NOW MUST BE RATIFIED BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE SENATE IN ORDER TO TAKE EFFECT.

3-TORRIJOS WARNED THAT LARGE GROUPS OF WOMEN WOULD BE MARCHING IN THE CANAL AREA TO SHOW PROOF OF OUR PATIENCE. (SIC) LET US PRAY TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THAT GOD WILL ENLIGHTEN THE SENATE IN FAVOR OF PANAMA'S JUST CAUSE WHICH CAN NEITHER GIVE GROUND NOR WAIT MUCH LONGER ADDED THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO SAID BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF STATE THAT 300 MILLION LATIN AMERICANS LEAD BY 2 MILLION PANAMANIAN WILL NOT ALLOW ANOTHER SANTO DOMINGO OR BAY OF PIGS OR KOREA OR VIETNAM. (END QUOTE) ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA O R 022224Z DEC 77 SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE
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TAGS: SOPN, PN
To: STATE
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